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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 11, 2002**

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# **MOUNTAIN PRESERVE ARSONIST SENTENCED**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that MARK WARREN SANDS, DOB 6/20/51, of 9046 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Az., was sentenced to 18 years in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2,822,483.80 in restitution to the victims of his arson fires, by United States District Judge Susan R. Bolton, in Phoenix, Arizona.

SANDS was originally indicted for setting fire to the following properties on the dates indicated:

8921 N. Arroya Grande Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 4/9/2000 and 10/1/2000.  
9050 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 10/20/2000.  
2244 E. Vogel Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 12/10/2000.  
8530 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 12/14/2000.  
8516 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 12/14/2000.  
15442 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 12/20/2000.  
12910 E. Corrine Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1/18/01.

SANDS entered a plea of guilty on November 7, 2001 to counts 1,4,8,11,14,17, and 20 of the Indictment, and a one count Information, charging defendant with violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(Extortion Affecting Interstate Commerce) and count 2 of the indictment charging defendant

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with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(h)(1) and (2)(Use of a Fire to Commit a Federal Felony), all class C felony offenses.

"The crime represented the egotistical acts of a man who felt that his control of a media story was more important than the risk to the lives of firefighters, the resources of the police and FBI and the monetary and emotional losses to individual victims and the community as a whole. We as a society punish individuals who make those kinds of choices. We believe Judge Bolton's decision to sentence the defendant to 18 years in prison is appropriate and satisfies the interests of justice", said Joseph Welty, the prosecutor on the case.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force including the Phoenix Police Department and the Phoenix Fire Department, with assistance from the Scottsdale Police Department and the Rural Metro Fire Department.

The prosecution was handled by Joseph Welty, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-533-PHX-SRB  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-028

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